

Draft Agenda
30 September 2005

DRAFT AGENDA
FORTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION
AND
THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF
THE COMMITTEE OF SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS ON MARINE MAMMALS

12-14 October 2005
Anchorage Hilton Hotel

WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2005

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| 8:30-8:45 | WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS |
| 8:45-9:00 | REVIEW OF MEETING FORMAT AND GOALS |
| 9:00-11:00 | CLIMATE CHANGE <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. The effect of climate change on Alaska Native communitiesII. Overview of major changes expected and research underway to investigate themIII. NOAA's climate programIV. NMFS speciesV. Polar bears and walrusesVI. Discussion |
| 11:00-11:15 | Break |
| 11:15-12:15 | COASTAL DEVELOPMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. General overview of coastal development activities and issuesII. Current and planned oil and gas activitiesIII. Cook Inlet development and potential impact on beluga whalesIV. Tourism, marine mammal watching, and cruise shipsV. Development of a code of conduct for tour operators and viewing handbookVI. Discussion |
| 12:15-1:30 | Lunch |
| 1:30-2:30 | CONTAMINANTS AND DISEASE <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. Agency perspective RE NOAA's Oceans and Human Health ProgramII. Overview of contaminants and diseaseIII. Alaska sea otter disease catalogIV. Discussion |
| 2:30-2:45 | Break |

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- 2:45-5:45 ALASKA NATIVE SUBSISTENCE AND CO-MANAGEMENT
- I. Agency perspectives
 - II. Introduction
 - A. Alaska Beluga Whale Committee
 - B. Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission
 - C. Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission
 - D. Aleut Marine Mammal Commission
 - E. Bristol Bay Marine Mammal Council
 - F. North Slope Bureau Dept. of Wildlife Management
 - G. Alaska Nanuuq Commission
 - H. Traditional Council of St. George Island and Aleut Community of St. Paul Island
 - I. Sitka Marine Mammal Commission
 - J. Southeast Inter-tribal Fish & Wildlife Commission
 - K. Ice Seal Committee
 - L. Alaska Sea Otter and Steller Sea Lion Commission
 - M. Cook Inlet Marine Mammal Commission
 - III. Panel Discussion
- 5:45-6:00 Recap of day's discussions
- 6:00 PM ADJOURN FOR THE DAY

THURSDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2005

- 08:15-8:30 Review of previous day's discussions
- 08:30-10:45 MARINE MAMMAL INTERACTIONS WITH COMMERCIAL FISHING
- I. Overview of fisheries/marine mammal interactions and ecosystem considerations in the North Pacific
 - II. Direct takes – status and trends in marine mammal bycatch
 - III. Indirect takes
 - A. Scientific review of the harvest strategy used in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska
 - B. Ecosystem interactions and modeling
 - C. Spatial and temporal effects of fishing
 - D. Ecosystem-directed research
 - IV. Fisheries perspective
 - V. NGO perspectives
 - VI. Discussion: What role should the Marine Mammal Commission play in addressing fisheries issues?

10:45-11:00 Break

SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN

- 11:00-11:45 STELLER SEA LIONS
- I. Update on population abundance and trends
 - II. Recent and planned research; recent findings
 - III. Revised recovery plan
 - IV. Fisheries-related concerns
 - V. Status of Humane Society lawsuit
- 11:45-12:15 NORTHERN FUR SEALS
- I. Current and planned research
 - II. Management concerns
- 12:15-12:45 HARBOR SEALS
- I. Population abundance and trends
 - II. Identification of stocks or management units
- 12:45-2:00 Lunch
- 2:00-2:30 ICE SEALS
- I. Population abundance, status and trends
 - II. Recent and planned research
 - III. Management concerns

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- 2:30-3:15 PACIFIC WALRUSES
I. Program overview
II. Plans for range-wide survey and updating study plan
III. Tagging program
- 3:15-3:45 POLAR BEARS
I. Program overview
II. Imports of trophies from Canada
III. Beaufort Sea population; mark/recapture study
- 3:45-4:00 Break
- 4:00-4:30 SOUTHWEST ALASKA SEA OTTERS
I. Population status and ESA listing
II. Development of recovery plan
III. Handicraft rules
IV. Research into reasons for decline (Jim Estes or substitute)
- 4:30-5:00 COOK INLET BELUGA WHALES
I. Population status and trends
II. ALJ rulemaking process
III. Conservation plan and ESA listing
IV. Management priorities, research plans, and funding
- 5:00-5:15 NORTH PACIFIC RIGHT WHALES
I. Research results and future plans
II. Re-examination of critical habitat designation
- 5:15-5:30 BOWHEAD WHALES
I. Ongoing and planned research
II. IWC and subsistence whaling quota
- 5:30-6:00 DISCUSSION AND WRAP-UP
- 6:00 ADJOURN FOR THE DAY

FRIDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2005

- 08:15-8:30 Review of previous day's discussions
- 08:30-10:00 STATUS OF MAJOR ECOSYSTEMS IN THE NORTH PACIFIC
- I. Overview of significant ecosystem trends and issues and major research and management needs
 - A. Arctic Ocean
 - B. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands
 - C. Gulf of Alaska, including southeast Alaska
 - II. Discussion: What role should the Marine Mammal Commission play in promoting ecosystem-based management in the North Pacific and elsewhere
- 10:00-10:15 Break
- 10:15-11:30 FUNDING FOR MARINE MAMMAL AND ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION
- I. Results of a survey of research/management programs for marine mammals in the North Pacific, FY 2003-2007
 - A. Missions and priorities
 - B. Distribution of discretionary and non-discretionary funding
 - C. Major gaps
 - D. "Outside" funding opportunities
 - II. Panel Discussion
 - A. NOAA/AFSC programs
 - B. FWS/USGS programs
 - C. North Pacific Research Board
 - D. North Pacific Universities Marine Mammal Research Consortium)
 - E. Alaska SeaLife Center
 - F. State of Alaska
 - G. University of Alaska School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences
 - H. Indigenous Peoples Council on Marine Mammals
 - I. Prince William Sound Science Center
- 11:30-12:00 COMMISSION SPECIAL PROJECTS
- I. Ecological role of killer whales
 - II. Cost-effectiveness of research and recovery programs
 - III. Impact of anthropogenic sound
- 12:00-1:15 Lunch
- 1:15-1:45 EVALUATION OF THE MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION
- 1:45-2:45 MANAGEMENT TOOLS FOR MARINE MAMMAL CONSERVATION
- 2:45-3:00 Break

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3:00-4:00 DISCUSSION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

4:00-4:15 CLOSING REMARKS

4:15 ADJOURN THE MEETING

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4:30-6:00 EXECUTIVE SESSION (Commissioners, Committee of Scientific Advisors, staff)